



General Assembly

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9 December 2016Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (g)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/44. Transparency in armaments***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995, 51/45 H of 10 December 1996, 52/38 R of 9 December 1997, 53/77 V of 4 December 1998, 54/54 O of 1 December 1999, 55/33 U of 20 November 2000, 56/24 Q of 29 November 2001, 57/75 of 22 November 2002, 58/54 of 8 December 2003, 60/226 of 23 December 2005, 61/77 of 6 December 2006, 63/69 of 2 December 2008, 64/54 of 2 December 2009, 66/39 of 2 December 2011 and 68/43 of 5 December 2013, entitled "Transparency in armaments",

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Welcoming, in that regard, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Register as an important element in the contribution of the United Nations to international peace and security,

Welcoming also the consolidated reports of the Secretary-General on the Register, which include the returns of Member States for 2012,¹ 2013² and 2014,³

Welcoming further the 2016 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, prepared with the assistance of the group of governmental experts,⁴ in particular the recommendation that the Secretary-General appeal to Member States in a position to do so to provide information on their international transfers of small arms and light weapons in their annual report to the Register and the recommendation that the seven plus one formula be utilized on a trial basis for the period leading up to the deliberations of

¹ A/68/138 and Add.1.² A/69/124 and Add.1.³ A/70/168 and Add.1.⁴ See A/71/259.

the next group of governmental experts, as the diversion of licit transfers of small arms and light weapons continues to pose a threat to peace and security, undermines human security and exacerbates the illicit trade in wildlife, and as the transparency of licit transfers of small arms and light weapons can contribute to tackling these problems and building confidence and trust between Member States,

Welcoming the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Welcoming also the adoption by the General Assembly and the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty⁵ on 2 April 2013 and 24 December 2014, respectively, and noting that the Treaty remains open for accession by any State that has not signed it,

Welcoming in particular the increase in transparency in armaments that is provided by the Treaty,

Noting the focused discussions on transparency in armaments that took place in the Conference on Disarmament in 2013, 2014 and 2015,

Expressing its concern at the decline in reporting to the Register,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. *Reaffirms its determination* to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as provided for in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and the recommendations contained in the consensus report of the 2016 group of governmental experts;⁴

3. *Decides* to adapt the scope of the Register in conformity with the recommendations contained in the 2016 report of the Secretary-General;⁴

4. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide the Secretary-General, by 31 May annually, with the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports if appropriate, using the updated online reporting tool, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L, the recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,⁶ the recommendations contained in paragraph 94 of the 2000 report of the Secretary-General and the appendices and annexes thereto,⁷ the recommendations contained in paragraphs 112 to 114 of the 2003 report of the Secretary-General,⁸ the recommendations contained in paragraphs 123 to 127 of the 2006 report of the Secretary-General,⁹ the recommendations contained in paragraphs 71 to 75 of the 2009 report of the Secretary-General,¹⁰ the recommendations contained in paragraphs 69 to

⁵ See resolution 67/234 B.

⁶ A/52/316 and Corr.2.

⁷ A/55/281.

⁸ A/58/274.

⁹ A/61/261.

¹⁰ A/64/296.

76 of the 2013 report of the Secretary-General¹¹ and the recommendations contained in paragraphs 81 to 94 of the 2016 report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement through national production and military holdings as part of their background information and to make use of the de facto reporting form, or any other method they deem appropriate, for the respective elements;

6. *Reaffirms* its decision, with a view to further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review, and to that end:

(a) Calls upon Member States to submit their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, including on whether the absence of small arms and light weapons as a main category in the Register has limited its relevance and directly affected decisions on participation, by completing the questionnaire to be dispatched by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 2019, within existing resources, with the broadest possible participation, in line with the recommendation contained in paragraph 93 of the 2016 report of the Secretary-General, and on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation and relevance of the Register and its further development, taking into account the work of the Conference on Disarmament, relevant deliberations within the United Nations, the views expressed by Member States and the reports of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, with a view to taking a decision at its seventy-fourth session;

(c) Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist Member States to build capacity to submit meaningful reports, and encourages States in a position to do so to provide assistance for this purpose upon request, including capacity to report on small arms and light weapons using the seven plus one formula, inter alia, by circulating to Member States the reporting forms, category descriptions and guidance on using the online reporting tool;

(d) Further requests the Secretary-General to provide Member States with the opportunity to submit a nil return valid for a maximum of three years, so as to increase the level of reporting to the Register, and to continue to send annual requests to participate in the Register to such Member States, as proposed in the recommendations contained in the consensus report of the 2016 group of governmental experts;

(e) Requests the Secretary-General to update and reissue the information booklet entitled "Guidelines for Reporting International Transfers: Questions and Answers";

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations contained in his 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2016 reports on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and to ensure that sufficient

¹¹ A/68/140.

resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

8. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

9. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international and regional efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

*51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016*



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/45. Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 63/71 of 2 December 2008 on the Convention on Cluster Munitions and 70/54 of 7 December 2015 on the implementation of the Convention,

Reaffirming its determination to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions at the time of their use, when they fail to function as intended or when they are abandoned,

Concerned that cluster munition remnants kill or maim civilians, including women and children, obstruct economic and social development, including through the loss of livelihood, impede post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, delay or prevent the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, can have a negative impact on national and international peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance efforts, and have other severe consequences for many years after use,

Deeply concerned about the dangers presented by the large national stockpiles of cluster munitions retained for operational use, and determined to ensure their rapid destruction,

Believing it necessary to contribute effectively in an efficient, coordinated manner to resolving the challenge of removing cluster munition remnants located throughout the world, and to ensure their destruction,

Mindful of the need to coordinate adequately efforts undertaken in various forums, including through the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹ to address the rights and needs of victims of various types of weapons, and resolved to avoid discrimination among victims of various types of weapons,

Reaffirming that in cases not covered by the Convention on Cluster Munitions² or by other international agreements, civilians and combatants remain under the protection and authority of the principles of international law, derived from established custom, from the principles of humanity and from the dictates of public conscience,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2688, No. 47713.



Welcoming the steps taken nationally, regionally and globally in recent years aimed at prohibiting, restricting or suspending the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions, and welcoming in this regard that, since 2014, all Central American States have joined the Convention, thus fulfilling their aspiration to become the first cluster munitions-free region in the world,

Stressing the role of public conscience in furthering the principles of humanity, as evidenced by the global call for an end to civilian suffering caused by cluster munitions, and recognizing the efforts to that end undertaken by the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition and numerous other non-governmental organizations around the world,

Noting that a total of 119 States have joined the Convention, 100 as States parties and 19 as signatories,

Taking note of the 2015 Dubrovnik Declaration³ and the Dubrovnik Action Plan⁴ adopted at the First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 7 to 11 September 2015,

Taking note also of the political declaration establishing 2030 as a target date to implement all individual and collective outstanding obligations under the Convention as adopted by consensus under the presidency of the Netherlands at the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Geneva from 5 to 7 September 2016,

1. *Urges* all States outside the Convention on Cluster Munitions² to join as soon as possible, whether by ratifying or acceding to it, and all States parties that are in a position to do so to promote adherence to the Convention through bilateral, subregional and multilateral contacts, outreach and other means;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention, including through the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan;⁴

3. *Expresses strong concern* regarding recent allegations, reports or documented evidence of the use of cluster munitions in different parts of the world;

4. *Urges* all States parties to provide the Secretary-General with complete and timely information as required under article 7 of the Convention in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention;

5. *Invites* all States that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information that could make the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and related activities more effective;

6. *Reiterates its invitation and encouragement* to all States parties, interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition and other relevant non-governmental organizations to participate in the future meetings of States parties to the Convention;

7. *Calls upon* States parties and participating States to address issues arising from outstanding dues and from recently implemented United Nations financial and accounting practices;

³ CCM/CONF/2015/7 and Corr.1, annex I.

⁴ Ibid., annex III.

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions".

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/46. Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons***The General Assembly,**Recalling* its resolution 70/47 of 7 December 2015,*Reiterating* the deep concern about the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons,*Stressing* that the immense and uncontrollable destructive capability and indiscriminate nature of nuclear weapons cause unacceptable humanitarian consequences, as has been demonstrated through their past use and testing,*Recalling* that concern about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons has been reflected in numerous United Nations resolutions, including the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly, on 24 January 1946,*Recalling also* that at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1978, the Assembly stressed that nuclear weapons posed the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilization,¹*Welcoming* the renewed interest and resolve of the international community, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross and international humanitarian organizations, to address the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons,*Recalling* that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons expressed deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons,²*Noting* the resolution of 26 November 2011 of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement entitled "Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons",¹ See resolution S-10/2.² See 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (N/TCNF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions.

Recalling the joint statements on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons delivered to the General Assembly and during the 2010–2015 cycle of the review of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,¹

Welcoming the facts-based discussions on the effects of a nuclear weapon detonation that were held at the conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, convened by Norway, on 4 and 5 March 2013, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014, and Austria, on 8 and 9 December 2014,

Cognizant that a key message from experts and international organizations at those conferences was that no State or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation or provide adequate assistance to victims,

Firmly believing that it is in the interest of all States to engage in discussions on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons with the aim of further broadening and deepening the understanding of this matter, and welcoming civil society's ongoing engagement,

Reaffirming the role of civil society, in partnership with Governments, in raising awareness about the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons affect not only Governments but each and every citizen of our interconnected world and have deep implications for human survival, for the environment, for socioeconomic development, for our economies and for the health of future generations,

1. *Stresses* that it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons never be used again, under any circumstances;
2. *Emphasizes* that the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is their total elimination;
3. *Stresses* that the catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed;
4. *Expresses its firm belief* that awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons must underpin all approaches and efforts towards nuclear disarmament;
5. *Calls upon* all States, in their shared responsibility, to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, to prevent their vertical and horizontal proliferation and to achieve nuclear disarmament;
6. *Urges* States to exert all efforts to totally eliminate the threat of these weapons of mass destruction;
7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons".

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¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.



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Agenda item 98 (00)**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016***[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/47. Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons***The General Assembly,**Recalling its resolution 70/48 of 7 December 2015,**Ever mindful of the unacceptable harm that victims of nuclear weapon explosions and nuclear testing have experienced, and recognizing that the rights and needs of victims have not yet been adequately addressed,**Understanding that the immediate, medium-term and long-term consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion would be significantly graver than was understood in the past and would not be constrained by national borders but have regional or even global effects, potentially threatening the survival of humanity,**Recognizing the complexity of and relationship between these consequences for, inter alia, health, the environment, infrastructure, food security, climate, development, social cohesion, displacement and the global economy, which would be systemic and potentially irreversible,**Aware that the risk of a nuclear weapon explosion is significantly greater than previously assumed and is indeed increasing with increased proliferation, the lowering of the technical threshold for nuclear weapon capability, the ongoing modernization of nuclear weapon arsenals in States possessing nuclear weapons and the role that is attributed to nuclear weapons in the nuclear doctrines of such States,**Cognizant that the risk of the use of nuclear weapons, with its unacceptable consequences, can be avoided only when all nuclear weapons have been eliminated,**Emphasizing that the consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion and the risks associated with nuclear weapons concern the security of all humanity and that all States share the responsibility to prevent any use of nuclear weapons,**Emphasizing also that the scope of the consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion and the associated risks raise profound moral and ethical questions that go beyond debates about the legality of nuclear weapons,**Mindful that no national or international capacity exists that would adequately respond to the human suffering and humanitarian harm that would result from a nuclear weapon explosion in a populated area, and that such capacity most likely will never exist,*

Affirming that it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances,

Reiterating the crucial role that international organizations, relevant entities of the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, elected representatives, academia and civil society play in advancing the shared objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Recalling the three international conferences convened, respectively, by Norway in March 2013, Mexico in February 2014 and Austria in December 2014 on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and the compelling evidence presented at these conferences,

Welcoming the fact that 127 States have drawn inescapable conclusions from the evidence on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and, consequently, supported or endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge,¹

1. *Stresses* the importance of having fact-based discussions and presenting findings and compelling evidence on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in all relevant forums and within the United Nations framework, as they should be at the centre of all deliberations and the implementation of obligations and commitments with regard to nuclear disarmament;

2. *Appeals* to all States to follow the imperative of human security for all and to promote the protection of civilians against risks stemming from nuclear weapons;

3. *Urges* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons² to renew their commitment to the urgent and full implementation of their existing obligations under article VI, and calls upon all States to identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and to cooperate with all stakeholders to achieve this goal;

4. *Calls upon* all States to pursue an additional legal instrument or instruments with urgency and to support international efforts to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons;

5. *Recalls* that all such efforts are aimed at contributing to the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty and the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons;

6. *Requests* all States possessing nuclear weapons, pending the total elimination of their nuclear weapon arsenals, to take concrete interim measures to reduce the risk of nuclear weapon detonations, including by reducing the operational status of nuclear weapons and moving nuclear weapons away from deployment and into storage, diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines and rapidly reducing all types of nuclear weapons;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant stakeholders, States, international organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, parliamentarians and civil society to cooperate in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in the light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks;

¹ See CD/2039 and www.hinw14vienna.at.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons".

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/48. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons
in all its aspects***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 70/49 of 7 December 2015, as well as all previous resolutions on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including resolution 56/24 V of 24 December 2001,

Emphasizing the importance of the continued and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,¹ and recognizing its important contribution to international efforts on this matter,

Emphasizing also the importance of the continued and full implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument),²

Recalling the commitment of States to the Programme of Action as the main framework for measures within the activities of the international community to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Underlining the need for States to enhance their efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

Mindful of the implementation of the outcomes adopted by the follow-up meetings on the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the convening of the Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and

¹ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

² See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex.



Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in New York from 1 to 5 June 2015, and the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 6 to 10 June 2016, to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, and the final document adopted therein,³

Welcoming also the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ including Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting that tools developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, including the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, and those developed by Member States could be used to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the coordinated efforts within the United Nations to implement the Programme of Action, including by developing the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, which forms an integrated clearing house for international cooperation and assistance for capacity-building in the area of small arms and light weapons,

Noting that voluntary national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action can serve, inter alia, to provide a baseline for measuring progress in its implementation, build confidence and promote transparency, provide a basis for information exchange and action and serve to identify needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation, including the matching of needs with available resources and expertise,

Noting with satisfaction regional and subregional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and commending the progress that has already been made in this regard, including the tackling of both supply and demand factors that are relevant to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

Reaffirming that international cooperation and assistance are an essential aspect of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

Recognizing the efforts undertaken by non-governmental organizations in the provision of assistance to States for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling that Governments bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, in accordance with the sovereignty of States and their relevant international obligations,

Reiterating that illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons is a serious problem that the international community should address urgently,

Highlighting new challenges and potential opportunities with regard to effective marking, record-keeping and tracing resulting from developments in the

³ A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/2.

⁴ Resolution 70/1.

manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons, and bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁵ which includes an overview of the implementation of resolution 70/49,

Welcoming the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in the scope of the Arms Trade Treaty,⁶

Acknowledging efforts related to the transfer of conventional arms that may also contribute to the prevention and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

1. *Underlines* the fact that the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects requires concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and that their uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world has a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and poses a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels;

2. *Recognizes* the urgent need to maintain and enhance national controls, in accordance with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,¹ to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including their diversion to illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, taking into account, inter alia, their adverse humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences for the affected States;

3. *Calls upon* all States to implement the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument)² by, inter alia, including in their national reports the name and contact information of the national points of contact and information on national marking practices used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable;

4. *Encourages* all relevant initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, and calls upon all Member States to contribute towards the continued implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

5. *Encourages* States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons;⁷

6. *Reaffirms* its endorsement of the report adopted at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in

⁵ A/71/438.

⁶ See resolution 67/234 B.

⁷ See A/62/163 and Corr.1.

All Its Aspects,³ and encourages all States to implement, as appropriate, the measures highlighted in the annex to the report under the sections entitled "Way forward";

7. *Recalls* its decision, in accordance with the decision of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,⁸ to hold the Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2018 for a period of two weeks, preceded by a one-week preparatory committee meeting early in 2018;

8. *Emphasizes* that international cooperation and assistance remain essential to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

9. *Also emphasizes* the fact that initiatives by the international community with respect to international cooperation and assistance remain essential and complementary to national implementation efforts, as well as to those at the regional and global levels;

10. *Recognizes* the necessity for interested States to develop effective coordination mechanisms, where they do not exist, in order to match the needs of States with existing resources to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action and to make international cooperation and assistance more effective, and in this regard encourages States to make use, as appropriate, of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System;

11. *Encourages* States to consider, among other mechanisms, the coherent identification of needs, priorities, national plans and programmes that may require international cooperation and assistance from States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so;

12. *Also encourages* States, on a voluntary basis, to make increasing use of their national reports as another tool for communicating assistance needs and information on the resources and mechanisms available to address such needs, and encourages States in a position to render such assistance to make use of these national reports;

13. *Encourages* States, relevant international and regional organizations and civil society with the capacity to do so to cooperate with and provide assistance to other States, upon request, in the preparation of comprehensive reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action;

14. *Encourages* States to reinforce, as necessary, cross-border cooperation at the national, subregional and regional levels in addressing the common problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, with full respect for each State's sovereignty over its own borders;

15. *Also encourages* States to take full advantage of the benefits of cooperation with the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with their mandates and consistent with national priorities;

⁸ A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annex I, sect. III, paras. 1 and 2.

16. *Encourages* all efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including those highlighted in the outcome documents of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects⁹ and in the final document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action;

17. *Encourages* States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action, notes that States will submit national reports on their implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, encourages those States in a position to do so to use the reporting template made available by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, and reaffirms the utility of synchronizing such reports with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means of increasing the submission rate and improving the utility of reports, as well as contributing substantively to meeting discussions;

18. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to provide financial assistance, through a voluntary sponsorship fund, that could be distributed, upon request, to States otherwise unable to participate in meetings on the Programme of Action;

19. *Encourages* interested States and relevant international and regional organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings to consider and advance the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the International Tracing Instrument, including in preparation for the meetings on the Programme of Action;

20. *Encourages* civil society and relevant organizations to strengthen their cooperation and work with States at the respective national and regional levels to achieve the implementation of the Programme of Action;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

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⁹ Ibid., annexes I and II.



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Agenda item 98 (hh)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/49. United action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons***The General Assembly,**Reaffirming its commitment to achieving a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons,**Recalling its resolution 70/40 of 7 December 2015,**Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons¹ as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of the three pillars of the Treaty, namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,**Reaffirming also its determination to further strengthen the universality of the regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and recalling that nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy are mutually reinforcing and are essential for strengthening the Treaty regime,**Stressing the importance of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be held in 2020, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty, and of its review cycle towards the 2020 Review Conference,**Reaffirming that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing,**Expressing concern over the recent developments in regional security situations,**Reaffirming that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, which is, inter alia, essential to international peace and security,**Noting that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,*¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Stressing the importance of the decisions and the resolution on the Middle East of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons² and the Final Documents of the 2000³ and 2010⁴ Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and reaffirming its support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region and in accordance with the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and for the resumption of dialogue towards this end involving the States concerned,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken towards the development of nuclear disarmament verification capabilities that can contribute to the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons, including the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, and stressing in this regard the importance of cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States,

Stressing the need to continue to explore possibilities for overcoming the ongoing deadlock of two decades in the Conference on Disarmament,

Welcoming the continuing successful implementation of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,

Welcoming also the successful convening of the ministerial meeting on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna in June 2016, and the eighth ministerial meeting in support of the Treaty, held in New York in September 2016, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Treaty, and commending the accomplishments of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization over the past 20 years, in particular the significant progress made in the establishment of the International Monitoring System and the International Data Centre,

Expressing deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and reaffirming the need for all States to comply at all times with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law, while convinced that every effort should be made to avoid the use of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons should be fully understood by all, and noting in this regard that efforts should be made to increase such understanding,

Welcoming the recent visits of political leaders to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in particular the visit to Hiroshima by the President of the United States of America,

Expressing deep concern regarding the growing dangers posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons and related proliferation networks,

² See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

³ 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I–IV)).

⁴ 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)).

Recalling, in this context, that the international community faces grave challenges to the regime centred on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, such as the repeated nuclear tests and the launches using ballistic missile technology conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, most recently in September 2016, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and reiterating the resolute opposition of the international community to its possession of nuclear weapons,

Recalling also that nuclear and radiological terrorism remains a pressing and evolving challenge to the international community, and welcoming in this context the success of the Nuclear Security Summit process, including the fourth Nuclear Security Summit, held in Washington, D.C., on 31 March and 1 April 2016, at which the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency was reaffirmed,

1. *Renews* the determination of all States to take united action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, with a view to achieving a safer world for all and a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons;

2. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons¹ are committed under article VI thereof;

3. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to comply with their obligations under all the articles of the Treaty and to implement the steps agreed to in the Final Documents of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference² and the 2000³ and 2010⁴ Review Conferences;

4. *Encourages* all States to exert their utmost efforts towards the success of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, bearing in mind that the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference will be held in Vienna in May 2017;

5. *Calls upon* all States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty promptly and without any conditions to achieve its universality and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and to take practical steps in support of the Treaty;

6. *Calls upon* all States to take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, based on the principle of undiminished and increased security for all;

7. *Encourages* nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States to further engage in meaningful dialogue that facilitates practical and concrete measures on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

8. *Emphasizes* that deep concerns about the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons continue to underpin efforts by all States towards a world free of nuclear weapons;

9. *Encourages* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to commence negotiations at an early date to achieve greater reductions in their stockpiles of nuclear weapons, with a view to concluding such negotiations as soon as possible;

10. *Calls upon* all nuclear-weapon States to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures;

11. *Calls upon* all States to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

12. *Encourages* the nuclear-weapon States to continue to convene regular meetings, with a view to facilitating nuclear disarmament actions, to build upon and expand their efforts to enhance transparency and to increase mutual confidence, including by providing more frequent and further detailed reporting on nuclear weapons and delivery systems dismantled and reduced as part of nuclear disarmament efforts throughout the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons towards the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty;

13. *Calls upon* States concerned to continue to review their military and security concepts, doctrines and policies, with a view to reducing further the role and significance of nuclear weapons therein;

14. *Recognizes* the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapon States which could strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime;

15. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995, noting the unilateral statements by each of the nuclear-weapon States, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances;

16. *Encourages* the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission,⁵ and recognizes that, by signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, nuclear-weapon States would undertake individual legally binding commitments with respect to the status of such zones and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States parties to such treaties;

17. *Urges* all States possessing nuclear weapons to continue to undertake all efforts necessary to comprehensively address the risks of unintended nuclear detonations;

18. *Encourages* further efforts towards the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region and in accordance with the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and the resumption of dialogue towards that end involving the States concerned;

19. *Urges* all States, in particular the eight remaining States listed in annex 2 to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,⁶ to take individual initiatives to sign and ratify that Treaty without further delay and without waiting for any other State to do so, and to maintain all existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and declare their political will to do so pending the entry into force of the Treaty, and also urges all States to redouble their efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty through the article XIV process and other mutually reinforcing undertakings;

⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42)*.

⁶ See resolution 50/245 and A/50/1027.

20. *Urges* all States concerned to immediately commence negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and its early conclusion on the basis of document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995 and the mandate contained therein, taking into consideration the report of the Group of Governmental Experts⁷ requested in paragraph 3 of resolution 67/53 of 3 December 2012, and to declare and maintain moratoriums on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, pending the entry into force of the treaty;

21. *Encourages* all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education,⁸ in support of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons;

22. *Encourages* every effort to raise awareness of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons, including through, among others, visits by leaders, youth and others to and interactions with communities and people, including atomic bomb survivors, the hibakusha, that pass on their experiences to the future generations;

23. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the recent nuclear tests and launches using ballistic missile technology by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, strongly urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from conducting further nuclear tests and to abandon all ongoing nuclear activities immediately in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions and implement the joint statement of the Six-Party Talks of 19 September 2005, and to return at an early date to full compliance with the Treaty, including that of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

24. *Calls upon* all States to intensify efforts to address the threat posed by the nuclear and missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions;

25. *Also calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and to fully respect and comply with obligations undertaken to forswear nuclear weapons;

26. *Further calls upon* all States to establish and enforce effective domestic controls to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and encourages cooperation among States and technical assistance to enhance international partnership and capacity-building in non-proliferation efforts;

27. *Stresses* the fundamental role of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and the importance of the universalization of the comprehensive safeguards agreements, and, while noting that it is the sovereign decision of any State to conclude an additional protocol, strongly encourages all States that have not done so to conclude and bring into force as soon as possible an additional protocol based on the Model Additional Protocol to the Agreement(s) between States and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards, approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;

⁷ A/70/81.

⁸ A/57/124.

28. *Calls upon* all States to fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004 and 1977 (2011) of 20 April 2011, based on the outcome of the comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

29. *Encourages* all States to attach more importance to and enhance the security of nuclear and other radiological materials, to further strengthen the global nuclear security architecture and to work together for the success of the International Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Nuclear Security, to be held in Vienna in December 2016;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "United action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

*51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2016Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (ff)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/50. The Arms Trade Treaty***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 61/89 of 6 December 2006, 63/240 of 24 December 2008, 64/48 of 2 December 2009, 67/234 A of 24 December 2012, 67/234 B of 2 April 2013, 68/31 of 5 December 2013, 69/49 of 2 December 2014 and 70/58 of 7 December 2015 and its decision 66/518 of 2 December 2011,

Recognizing that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing also the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms,

Recognizing further the legitimate political, security, economic and commercial interests of States in the international trade in conventional arms,

Underlining the need to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use and end users, including the commission of terrorist acts,

Noting the contribution made by the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,¹ as well as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,² and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,³

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ including Sustainable Development Goal 16, which, inter alia, aims at significantly reducing illicit arms flows by 2030,

¹ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

³ See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex.

⁴ Resolution 70/1.



Recognizing the important role that civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, and industry play, by raising awareness, in efforts to prevent and eradicate the unregulated and illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion and in supporting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty,⁵

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly and the entry into force of the Treaty on 2 April 2013 and 24 December 2014, respectively, and noting that the Treaty remains open for accession by any State that has not signed it,

Noting the efforts by the States parties to the Treaty to continue exploring ways and means to enhance national implementation of the Treaty through the ad hoc working group on implementation,

1. *Welcomes* the decisions taken at the Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva from 22 to 26 August 2016, and notes that the Third Conference of States Parties will be held in Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2017;

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the ad hoc working group on implementation, the working group on transparency and reporting and the working group on universalization by the Second Conference of States Parties as important steps in advancing the object and purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty;⁵

3. *Recognizes* that the consolidation of the institutional structure of the Treaty provides a framework for supporting further work under the Treaty, in particular on its effective implementation;

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, according to their respective constitutional processes;

5. *Calls upon* those States parties in a position to do so to provide assistance, including legal or legislative assistance, institutional capacity-building and technical, material or financial assistance, to requesting States in order to promote the universalization of the Treaty;

6. *Stresses* the vital importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with all provisions of the Treaty by States parties, and urges them to meet their obligations under the Treaty;

7. *Recognizes* the complementarity among all relevant international instruments on conventional arms and the Treaty, and to this end urges all States to implement effective national measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms in fulfilment of their respective international obligations and commitments;

8. *Encourages* all States parties to make available their initial report, as well as their first annual report for the preceding calendar year, as required under article 13 of the Treaty, thereby enhancing confidence, transparency, trust and accountability, and notes the endorsement by the Second Conference of States Parties of templates that may facilitate the reporting task;

9. *Welcomes* the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty by the Second Conference of States Parties, and encourages all States parties in a position to do so to contribute to the trust fund;

⁵ See resolution 67/234 B.

10. *Encourages* States parties and signatory States in a position to do so to provide financial assistance, through a voluntary sponsorship fund, that could contribute to meeting the costs of participation in meetings under the Treaty for those States that would otherwise be unable to attend;

11. *Encourages* States parties to strengthen their cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, industry and relevant international organizations and to work with other States parties at the national and regional levels, with the aim of ensuring the effective implementation of the Treaty;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "The Arms Trade Treaty", and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

*51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016*



General Assembly

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13 December 2016Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (j)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/51. Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere
and adjacent areas***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996, 52/38 N of 9 December 1997, 53/77 Q of 4 December 1998, 54/54 L of 1 December 1999, 55/33 I of 20 November 2000, 56/24 G of 29 November 2001, 57/73 of 22 November 2002, 58/49 of 8 December 2003, 59/85 of 3 December 2004, 60/58 of 8 December 2005, 61/69 of 6 December 2006, 62/35 of 5 December 2007, 63/65 of 2 December 2008, 64/44 of 2 December 2009, 65/58 of 8 December 2010, 67/55 of 3 December 2012, 69/35 of 2 December 2014 and 70/45 of 7 December 2015,

Recalling also the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,¹

Recalling further the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned",²

Determined to pursue the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Determined also to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,³ which reaffirmed the

¹ Resolution S-10/2.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42), annex I.*

³ *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I-III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I-III)).*



conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco,⁴ Rarotonga,⁵ Bangkok⁶ and Pelindaba⁷ establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,⁸ *inter alia*, for achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the convening by Indonesia of the Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, on 24 April 2015,

Noting that 115 States are currently parties and signatories to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties,

Underlining the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties,

Reaffirming the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁹

1. *Reaffirms its conviction* of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and calls for greater progress towards the total elimination of all nuclear weapons;

2. *Welcomes* the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty⁸ and the treaties of Tlatelolco,⁴ Rarotonga,⁵ Bangkok⁶ and Pelindaba⁷ are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas are now in force;

4. *Calls upon* all States concerned to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so, in this regard welcomes the ratification by China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and the steps taken by the United States of America towards the ratification of the protocols to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, to the Treaty of Pelindaba and to the Treaty of Rarotonga, and encourages progress with a view to concluding consultations between the nuclear-weapon States and the parties to the Bangkok Treaty on the Protocol to that Treaty;

5. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to withdraw any reservations or interpretive declarations contrary to the object and purpose of the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones;

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

⁵ *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

⁷ A/50/426, annex.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

6. *Welcomes* the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and calls upon all States to consider all relevant proposals, including those reflected in its resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

7. *Congratulates* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, as well as of Central Asia and Mongolia, for their efforts to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, and calls upon them to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

8. *Encourages* efforts to reinforce coordination among nuclear-weapon-free zones;

9. *Encourages* the competent authorities of the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to those treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of the goals of the treaties;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

*51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016*



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/52. Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them***The General Assembly,**Recalling* its resolution 70/29 of 7 December 2015 on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them,*Deeply concerned* by the magnitude of human casualty and suffering, especially among children, caused by the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons,*Concerned* by the negative impact that the illicit proliferation and use of those weapons continue to have on the efforts of States in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion in the areas of poverty eradication, sustainable development and the maintenance of peace, security and stability,*Bearing in mind* the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted in Bamako on 1 December 2000,¹*Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all",² in which he emphasized that States must strive just as hard to eliminate the threat of small arms and light weapons as they do to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction,*Recalling also* the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 8 December 2005,³*Recalling further* the expression of support in the 2005 World Summit Outcome for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,⁴¹ A/CONF.192/PC/23, annex.² A/59/2005.³ See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex.⁴ Resolution 60/1, para. 94.

Recalling the adoption, on 14 June 2006 in Abuja at the thirtieth ordinary summit of the Economic Community of West African States, of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, in replacement of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Recalling also the entry into force of the Convention on 29 September 2009,

Recalling further the decision taken by the Economic Community to establish the Small Arms Unit, responsible for advocating appropriate policies and developing and implementing programmes, as well as the establishment of the Economic Community's Small Arms Control Programme, launched on 6 June 2006 in Bamako, in replacement of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development,

Taking note of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, and assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them,⁵

Recalling, in that regard, the decision of the European Union to significantly support the Economic Community in its efforts to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing the important role that civil society organizations play, by raising public awareness, in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons,

Recalling the reports of the United Nations Conferences to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006 and from 27 August to 7 September 2012,⁶

Welcoming the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in the scope of the Arms Trade Treaty,⁷ as well as the inclusion of international assistance in its provisions,

1. *Commends* the United Nations and international, regional and other organizations for their assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons and collecting them in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the African Union;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials;

4. *Encourages* the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion to facilitate the effective functioning of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation

⁵ A/71/151.

⁶ A/CONF.192/2006/RC/9 and A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4.

⁷ See resolution 67/234 B.

of small arms and light weapons, and in that regard invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible;

5. *Encourages* the collaboration of civil society organizations and associations in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;⁸

6. *Encourages* cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in support of programmes and projects aimed at combating the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to help to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them".

*51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016*

⁸ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.



General Assembly

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13 December 2016Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/53. Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 62/36 of 5 December 2007, 63/41 of 2 December 2008, 65/71 of 8 December 2010, 67/46 of 3 December 2012 and 69/42 of 2 December 2014,

Recalling also that the maintenance of nuclear weapons on high alert was a feature of cold war nuclear postures, and welcoming the increased confidence and transparency since the cessation of the cold war,

Concerned that, notwithstanding the end of the cold war, several thousand nuclear weapons remain on high alert, ready to be launched within minutes,

Noting the continuing engagement in multilateral disarmament forums in support of further reductions to the operational status of nuclear weapons systems,

Recognizing that the maintenance of nuclear weapons systems at a high level of readiness increases the risk of the unintentional or accidental use of such weapons, which would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences,

Recognizing also that reductions in deployments and the lowering of operational status contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as to the process of nuclear disarmament, through the enhancement of confidence-building and transparency measures and a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies,

Welcoming the steps taken by some States in support of nuclear disarmament, including de-targeting initiatives, increasing the amount of preparation time required for deployment and other measures to diminish further the possibility of nuclear launches resulting from accidents, unauthorized actions or misperceptions,

Recalling the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,¹ including the commitments of the

¹ See 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)), vol. I, part I.



nuclear-weapon States to promptly engage with a view to, inter alia, considering the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in further reducing the operational status of nuclear weapons systems in ways that promote international stability and security.

Acknowledging, in this regard, the continued dialogue among the nuclear-weapon States to advance their nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament commitments under the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference¹ and the potential of this process for leading to deeper engagement on nuclear disarmament and greater mutual confidence,

Taking note of the references to operational readiness in reports of the nuclear-weapon States during the last review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Welcoming all opportunities to address the further reduction of the operational status of nuclear weapons systems as a step leading to nuclear disarmament,

1. *Calls for* further practical steps to be taken to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems, with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status;
2. *Looks forward* to the issue of the lowering of the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems being addressed further at the next review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
3. *Urges* States to update the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;
4. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016*



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/54. Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments***The General Assembly,**Recalling* its resolutions 1 (I) of 24 January 1946, 67/34 of 3 December 2012, 68/39 of 5 December 2013, 69/37 of 2 December 2014 and 70/51 of 7 December 2015,*Reiterating its grave concern* at the danger to humanity posed by nuclear weapons, which should inform all deliberations, decisions and actions relating to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation,*Recalling* the expression of deep concern by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and its resolve to seek a safer world for all and to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons,¹*Noting with satisfaction* the renewed attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons that has been generated by the international community since 2010 and the growing awareness that these concerns should underpin the need for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world, and noting with satisfaction also the prominence accorded to the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in multilateral disarmament forums,*Recalling* the discussions held at the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, hosted by Norway, on 4 and 5 March 2013, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014, and Austria, on 8 and 9 December 2014, aimed at understanding and developing a greater awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapon detonations which further reinforce the urgency of nuclear disarmament,*Emphasizing* the compelling evidence, including that presented at the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, that has detailed the catastrophic consequences that would result from a nuclear weapon detonation,

¹ See 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions.



reaching well beyond national borders and also imperilling the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the lack of capacity of States and international organizations to deal with the aftermath and the risk of an occurrence, due to an accident, systems failure or human error,

Noting the research findings presented to the Vienna Conference regarding the strongly disproportionate and gendered impact of exposure to ionizing radiation for women and girls,

Recalling the convening, on 26 September 2013, of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament and its resolution 70/34 of 7 December 2015 on the follow-up to that meeting and the decisions contained therein, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to that resolution,²

Welcoming the commemoration and promotion of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons,

Welcoming also the convening of the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to resolution 70/33 of 7 December 2015 on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, as well as the report on its work submitted pursuant to that resolution,³

Underlining the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education,

Reaffirming that transparency, verifiability and irreversibility are cardinal principles applying to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, which are mutually reinforcing processes,

Recalling the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,⁴ the basis upon which the Treaty was indefinitely extended, and the Final Documents of the 2000⁵ and the 2010⁶ Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with commitments made under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,⁷

Reaffirming the commitment of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to applying the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their treaty obligations,

² A/71/131.

³ A/71/371.

⁴ See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

⁵ 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I–IV)).

⁶ 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)).

⁷ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Recognizing the continued vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty⁸ to the advancement of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives, and welcoming the recent ratification of the Treaty by Myanmar and Swaziland,

Recalling that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding negative security assurances from nuclear-weapon States pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the conviction that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the establishment and maintenance of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament, and welcoming the Conferences of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia,

Welcoming the ratification by China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, and urging those States to continue to make real progress towards strengthening all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, inter alia, through the withdrawal or revision of any reservations or interpretative declarations contrary to the object and purpose of the treaties establishing such zones,

Recalling the encouragement expressed at the 2010 Review Conference for the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, reaffirming the expectation that this will be followed by concerted international efforts to create such zones in areas where they do not currently exist, especially in the Middle East, in this context noting with deep disappointment the non-fulfilment of the agreement at the 2010 Review Conference on practical steps to fully implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and disappointed that no agreement could be reached at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on this issue,

Deeply disappointed at the continued absence of progress towards multilateral nuclear disarmament at the Conference on Disarmament, which has been unable for the past 20 years to agree upon and implement a programme of work, and disappointed that the Disarmament Commission has not produced a substantive outcome since 1999,

Deeply regretting the lack of any substantive outcome of the 2015 Review Conference,

Disappointed that the 2015 Review Conference missed an opportunity to strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, enhance progress towards its full implementation and universality and monitor the implementation of commitments made and actions agreed upon at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, and deeply concerned about the impact of this failure on the Treaty and the balance between its three pillars,

⁸ See resolution 50/245 and A/50/1027.

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts towards the full implementation of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, while re-emphasizing the encouragement of the 2010 Review Conference to both States to continue discussions on follow-on measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals,

Underlining the importance of multilateralism in relation to nuclear disarmament, while recognizing the value of unilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives and the importance of compliance with the terms of these initiatives,

1. *Reiterates* that each article of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons⁹ is binding on the States parties at all times and in all circumstances and that all States parties should be held fully accountable with respect to strict compliance with their obligations under the Treaty, and calls upon all States parties to comply fully with all decisions, resolutions and commitments made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences;

2. *Also reiterates* the deep concern expressed by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law;

3. *Acknowledges* the evidence presented at the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, and calls upon Member States, in their relevant decisions and actions, to give due prominence to the humanitarian imperatives that underpin nuclear disarmament and to the urgency of achieving this goal;

4. *Recalls* the reaffirmation of the continued validity of the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,⁹ including the specific reaffirmation of the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty, recalls the commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to accelerating concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament, and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to take all steps necessary to accelerate the fulfilment of their commitments;

5. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their commitment to undertaking further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures;

6. *Urges* all States possessing nuclear weapons to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear-weapon systems in a verifiable and transparent manner with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status;

⁹ 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15.

7. *Encourages* the nuclear-weapon States to make concrete reductions in the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies, pending their total elimination;

8. *Encourages* all States that are part of regional alliances that include nuclear-weapon States to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their collective security doctrines, pending their total elimination;

9. *Underlines* the recognition by States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in the constraining by the nuclear-weapon States of the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and their ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to take steps in this regard;

10. *Encourages* further steps by all nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with the previous obligations and commitments on nuclear disarmament, to ensure the irreversible removal of all fissile material designated by each nuclear-weapon State as no longer required for military purposes, and calls upon all States to support, within the context of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the development of appropriate nuclear disarmament verification capabilities and legally binding verification arrangements, thereby ensuring that such material remains permanently outside military programmes in a verifiable manner;

11. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to work towards the full implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is inextricably linked to the indefinite extension of the Treaty, and expresses disappointment and deep concern at the lack of a substantive outcome of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including on the process to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as contained in the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, which remains valid until fully implemented;

12. *Expresses its profound disappointment* at the failure to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as mandated at the 2010 Review Conference;

13. *Stresses* the fundamental role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and looks forward to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in Vienna from 2 to 12 May 2017;

14. *Calls upon* all States parties to spare no effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in this regard urges India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without conditions, and to place all their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

15. *Urges* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including those in the September 2005 joint

statement, to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, to return, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to adhere to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement,¹⁰ with a view to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, and reaffirms its firm support for the Six-Party Talks;

16. *Urges* all States to work together to overcome obstacles within the international disarmament machinery that are inhibiting efforts to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament in a multilateral context, and urges the Conference on Disarmament once again to commence, without delay, substantive work that advances the agenda of nuclear disarmament, particularly through multilateral negotiations;

17. *Urges* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to fully implement without delay their obligations and commitments under the Treaty and as agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences;

18. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to implement their nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments, both qualitative and quantitative, in a manner that enables the States parties to regularly monitor progress, including through a standard detailed reporting format, thereby enhancing confidence and trust not only among the nuclear-weapon States but also between the nuclear-weapon States and the non-nuclear-weapon States and contributing to nuclear disarmament;

19. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States to include in their reports to be submitted throughout the 2020 review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons concrete and detailed information concerning the implementation of their obligations and commitments on nuclear disarmament;

20. *Urges* Member States to pursue multilateral negotiations without delay in good faith on effective measures for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world, in keeping with the spirit and purpose of General Assembly resolution 1 (I) and article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

21. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support efforts to identify, elaborate and negotiate effective legally binding measures for nuclear disarmament, and welcomes in this regard the recent endeavours towards the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments" and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

51st plenary meeting
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¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1677, No. 28986.



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/55. Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 70/50 of 7 December 2015, adopted on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, which was established to save succeeding generations from the untold suffering of the scourge of war,

Recalling also that the United Nations emerged at the time of the immense trail of death and destruction resulting from the Second World War, 71 years ago,

Recalling further the noble principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which enjoin the international community, individually and collectively, to spare no effort in promoting the ethical imperative of "in larger freedom", so that all peoples may enjoy freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom to live in dignity,

Convinced that, given the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks associated with a nuclear weapon detonation, Member States have long envisaged nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation as urgent and interlinked ethical imperatives in achieving the objectives of the Charter, which is reflected in the first resolution, resolution 1 (I), adopted by the General Assembly on 24 January 1946, aimed at the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction,

Acknowledging, in this connection, the ethical imperatives outlined in the provisions of its resolutions and reports and those of other related international initiatives on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks posed by a nuclear weapon detonation, including the declaration that the use of nuclear weapons would cause indiscriminate suffering and as such is a violation of the Charter and the laws of humanity and international law,¹ the condemnation of nuclear war as contrary to human conscience and a violation of the fundamental right to life,² the threat to the very survival of humankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,³ the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear

¹ See resolution 1653 (XVI).² See resolution 38/75.³ See resolution S-10/2.

weapons,⁴ and the disquiet that was expressed at the continued spending on the development and maintenance of nuclear arsenals,⁵

Acknowledging also the preamble to and article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons⁶ and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons,⁷ in which the Court unanimously concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Acknowledging further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁸ in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving that aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

Concerned that, despite the long-standing recognition it has accorded to these ethical imperatives and while much effort has been directed to addressing nuclear non-proliferation, limited progress has been made in meeting the nuclear disarmament obligations required to achieve and maintain the nuclear-weapon-free world that the international community demands,

Disappointed at the continued absence of progress towards multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament, despite unrelenting efforts of Member States towards this end, and the lack of concrete outcomes of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations within the United Nations framework,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing awareness, renewed attention and growing momentum that has been generated by Member States and the international community since 2010 regarding the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons, which underpin the ethical imperatives for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world, together with all related international initiatives,

Conscious of the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in relation to nuclear disarmament, and determined to promote multilateralism as essential to nuclear disarmament negotiations,

1. *Calls upon* all States to acknowledge the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks posed by a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design;

2. *Acknowledges* the ethical imperatives for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world, which is a "global public good of the highest order", serving both national and collective security interests;

3. *Declares*:

(a) The global threat posed by nuclear weapons must urgently be eliminated;

⁴ See resolution 50/70 M.

⁵ See A/59/119.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

⁷ A/51/218, annex.

⁸ Resolution 55/2.

(b) Discussions, decisions and actions on nuclear weapons must focus on the effects of these weapons on human beings and the environment and must be guided by the unspeakable suffering and unacceptable harm that they cause;

(c) Greater attention must be given to the impact of a nuclear weapon detonation on women and the importance of their participation in discussions, decisions and actions on nuclear weapons;

(d) Nuclear weapons serve to undermine collective security, heighten the risk of nuclear catastrophe, aggravate international tension and make conflict more dangerous;

(e) Arguments in favour of the retention of nuclear weapons have a negative impact on the credibility of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime;

(f) The long-term plans for the modernization of nuclear weapons arsenals run contrary to commitments and obligations to nuclear disarmament and engender perceptions of the indefinite possession of these weapons;

(g) In a world where basic human needs have not yet been met, the vast resources allocated to the modernization of nuclear weapons arsenals could instead be redirected to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals;

(h) Given the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, it is inconceivable that any use of nuclear weapons, irrespective of the cause, would be compatible with the requirements of international humanitarian law or international law, or the laws of morality, or the dictates of public conscience;

(i) Given their indiscriminate nature and potential to annihilate humanity, nuclear weapons are inherently immoral;

4. *Notes* that all responsible States have a solemn duty to take decisions that serve to protect their people and each other from the ravages of a nuclear weapon detonation, and that the only way for States to do so is through the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

5. *Stresses* that all States share an ethical responsibility to act with urgency and determination, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, to take the effective measures, including legally binding measures, necessary to eliminate and prohibit all nuclear weapons, given their catastrophic humanitarian consequences and associated risks;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world".

*51st plenary meeting
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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/56. Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control***The General Assembly,**Recalling* that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms the equal rights of women and men,*Recalling also* its resolutions 65/69 of 8 December 2010, 67/48 of 3 December 2012, 68/33 of 5 December 2013 and 69/61 of 2 December 2014,*Recalling further* General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the issue of women and peace and security,*Noting* the 2015 review of the women and peace and security agenda,*Welcoming* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ including Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the promotion of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control,*Welcoming also* the call for the full and meaningful participation of women in efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit transfer of small arms, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013, 2117 (2013) of 26 September 2013, 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 and 2220 (2015) of 22 May 2015,*Reaffirming* that the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is one of the essential factors for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security,*Recognizing* the valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures carried out at the local, national, subregional and regional levels in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict, and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control,*Recognizing also* that the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control should be further developed and in particular the need to facilitate the participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.¹ Resolution 70/1.

Recalling the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty,² and therefore encouraging States parties to fully implement all the provisions of the Treaty, including the provisions on serious acts of gender-based violence and on violence against children,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Member States to increase the participation of women in their national and regional coordination mechanisms on disarmament-related matters, including in efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

1. *Urges* Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken by Member States to implement General Assembly resolution 69/61;³

3. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts of the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to accord high priority to the issue of women and peace and security, and in this regard notes the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting the implementation of all resolutions related to women in the context of peace and security;

4. *Encourages* Member States to better understand the impact of armed violence, in particular the impact of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons on women and girls, through, inter alia, the development of national action plans on women and peace and security and strengthening the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age;

5. *Urges* Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels;

6. *Calls upon* all States to empower women, including through capacity-building efforts, as appropriate, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts;

7. *Encourages* States to seriously consider increasing funding for policies and programmes that take account of the differing impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys;

8. *Calls upon* all States to develop appropriate and effective national risk assessment criteria to facilitate the prevention of the use of arms to commit violence against women and children;

9. *Requests* the relevant United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to assist States, upon request, in promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

² See resolution 67/234 B.

³ A/71/137.

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control".

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]

71/57. United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/33 E of 20 November 2000, 57/60 of 22 November 2002, 59/93 of 3 December 2004, 61/73 of 6 December 2006, 63/70 of 2 December 2008, 65/77 of 8 December 2010, 67/47 of 3 December 2012 and 69/65 of 2 December 2014,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education,¹ in which the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education,² and recalling that 2016 marks the fourteenth anniversary of that report,

Recognizing the usefulness of the disarmament and non-proliferation education website "Disarmament education: resources for learning", which is updated on a regular basis by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, including to provide information in all its sections, such as presentations, interviews in the "Disarmament today" series of podcasts, which include the experiences of the hibakusha, the atomic bomb survivors, films and publications on disarmament issues, and encouraging the use of new communications technologies and social media for the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education,

Emphasizing that the Secretary-General concludes in his report that efforts need to be continued to implement the recommendations of the study and follow the good examples of how they are being implemented to stimulate even further long-term results,

Desirous of stressing the urgency of promoting concerted international efforts at disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to strengthening international security and enhancing sustainable economic and social development,

¹ A/71/124 and Add.I.

² A/57/124.



Conscious of the need to combat the negative effects of cultures of violence and complacency in the face of current dangers in this field through long-term programmes of education and training,

Remaining convinced that the need for disarmament and non-proliferation education, particularly among youth, has never been greater, not only on the subject of weapons of mass destruction but also in the field of small arms and light weapons, terrorism and other challenges to international security and the process of disarmament, as well as on the relevance of implementing the recommendations contained in the United Nations study,

Recognizing the importance of the participation of civil society, including academic and non-governmental organizations, which plays an active role in the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education,

1. *Expresses its appreciation to the Member States, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, civil society and academic and non-governmental organizations, which, within their purview, implemented the recommendations made in the United Nations study,² as discussed in the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the implementation of the recommendations,¹ and encourages them once again to continue to apply those recommendations and report to the Secretary-General on steps taken to implement them;*

2. *Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;*

3. *Reiterates the request to the Secretary-General to utilize electronic means to the fullest extent possible in the dissemination, in as many official languages as feasible, of information related to that report and any other information that the Office for Disarmament Affairs gathers on an ongoing basis with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study;*

4. *Requests the Secretary-General to maintain updated the website "Disarmament education: resources for learning", including the "Disarmament today" series of podcasts, as an efficient and effective tool to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education;*

5. *Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Disarmament and non-proliferation education".*

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Agenda item 98 (f)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/58. Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996, 52/38 O of 9 December 1997, 53/77 W of 4 December 1998, 54/54 Q of 1 December 1999, 55/33 X of 20 November 2000, 56/24 S of 29 November 2001, 57/85 of 22 November 2002, 58/46 of 8 December 2003, 59/83 of 3 December 2004, 60/76 of 8 December 2005, 61/83 of 6 December 2006, 62/39 of 5 December 2007, 63/49 of 2 December 2008, 64/55 of 2 December 2009, 65/76 of 8 December 2010, 66/46 of 2 December 2011, 67/33 of 3 December 2012, 68/42 of 5 December 2013, 69/43 of 2 December 2014 and 70/56 of 7 December 2015,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to humanity and all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the realization of the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world through the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,¹ particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,² the unequivocal commitment of nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

² 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONE.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex, decision 2.



nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, agreed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,¹ and the action points agreed at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as part of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions on nuclear disarmament.⁴

Sharing the deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

Calling upon all nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete disarmament efforts, and stressing that all States need to make special efforts to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons,

Noting the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General, in which he proposes, inter alia, the consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification,

Recalling the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty,⁵ the treaties of Tlatelolco,⁶ Rarotonga,⁷ Bangkok⁸ and Pelindaba⁹ and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Stressing the urgent need for the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the 13 practical steps to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons leading to nuclear disarmament, contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference,³

¹ See 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF 2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15.

² See 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I-III (NPT/CONF 2010/50 (Vols. I-III)), vol. I, part I.

³ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

⁴ Ibid., vol. 634, No. 9068.

⁵ The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

⁶ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

⁷ A/50/426, annex.

Taking note of the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention that was submitted to the Secretary-General by Costa Rica and Malaysia in 2007 and circulated by the Secretary-General;¹⁰

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control;

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, issued on 8 July 1996;¹¹

1. *Underlines once again* the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. *Calls once again upon* all States immediately to fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken with respect to the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its seventy-second session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons".

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¹⁰ A/62/650, annex.

¹¹ A/51/218, annex.



General Assembly

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Agenda item 98 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/59. Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol***The General Assembly,**Recalling* its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 69/53 of 2 December 2014,*Determined* to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,*Recalling* the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons, as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,¹ as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,*Emphasizing* the necessity of easing international tension and strengthening trust and confidence between States,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;²
2. *Renews its previous call* to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare,³ and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;
3. *Calls upon* those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw them;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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5 December 2016¹ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV, No. 2138.² A/71/84.



General Assembly

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Agenda item 98 (k)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/60. Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997, 53/77 J of 4 December 1998, 54/54 S of 1 December 1999, 55/33 K of 20 November 2000, 56/24 F of 29 November 2001, 57/64 of 22 November 2002, 58/45 of 8 December 2003, 59/68 of 3 December 2004, 60/60 of 8 December 2005, 61/63 of 6 December 2006, 62/28 of 5 December 2007, 63/51 of 2 December 2008, 64/33 of 2 December 2009, 65/53 of 8 December 2010, 66/31 of 2 December 2011, 67/37 of 3 December 2012, 68/36 of 5 December 2013, 69/55 of 2 December 2014 and 70/30 of 7 December 2015,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 70/30,¹

Noting that the Seventeenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 13 to 18 September 2016, welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly, without a vote, of resolution 70/30 on the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on

¹ A/71/123 and Add.1.



disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

2. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures that they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;¹

4. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures that they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

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5 December 2016*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Agenda item 98 (j)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]***71/61. Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation***The General Assembly,**Determined* to foster strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,*Recalling* its resolution 56/24T of 29 November 2001 on multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism and other relevant resolutions, as well as its resolutions 57/63 of 22 November 2002, 58/44 of 8 December 2003, 59/69 of 3 December 2004, 60/59 of 8 December 2005, 61/62 of 6 December 2006, 62/27 of 5 December 2007, 63/50 of 2 December 2008, 64/34 of 2 December 2009, 65/54 of 8 December 2010, 66/32 of 2 December 2011, 67/38 of 3 December 2012, 68/38 of 5 December 2013, 69/54 of 2 December 2014 and 70/31 of 7 December 2015 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation,*Recalling also* the purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, as enshrined in the Charter,*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹ in which it is stated, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,*Convinced* that, in the globalization era and with the information revolution, arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament problems are more than ever the¹ Resolution 55/2.

concern of all countries in the world, which are affected in one way or another by these problems and therefore should have the possibility to participate in the negotiations that arise to tackle them.

Bearing in mind the existence of a broad structure of disarmament and arms regulation agreements resulting from non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral negotiations with the participation of a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power,

Aware of the need to advance further in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament,

Recognizing also that the proliferation and development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are among the most immediate threats to international peace and security which need to be dealt with, with the highest priority,

Considering that the multilateral disarmament agreements provide the mechanism for States parties to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the agreements and that such consultations and cooperation may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter,

Stressing that international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures would make an essential contribution to the creation of multilateral and bilateral friendly relations among peoples and nations,

Being concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, and recognizing that a resort to unilateral actions by Member States in resolving their security concerns would jeopardize international peace and security and undermine confidence in the international security system as well as the foundations of the United Nations itself,

Noting that the Seventeenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 13 to 18 September 2016, welcomed the adoption of resolution 70/31 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and underlined the fact that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues,

Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and determined to promote multilateralism as an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope;

2. *Also reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns;

3. *Urges* the participation of all interested States in multilateral negotiations on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner;

4. *Underlines* the importance of preserving the existing agreements on arms regulation and disarmament, which constitute an expression of the results of international cooperation and multilateral negotiations in response to the challenges facing mankind;

5. *Calls once again upon* all Member States to renew and fulfil their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

6. *Requests* the States parties to the relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction to consult and cooperate among themselves in resolving their concerns with regard to cases of non-compliance as well as on implementation, in accordance with the procedures defined in those instruments, and to refrain from resorting or threatening to resort to unilateral actions or directing unverified non-compliance accusations against one another to resolve their concerns;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the replies of Member States on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, submitted pursuant to resolution 70/31;²

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

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² A/71/133.



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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]

71/62. Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations envisages the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Recalling also the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,¹ as well as the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,²

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997, 53/77 K of 4 December 1998, 54/54 T of 1 December 1999, 55/33 L of 20 November 2000, 56/24 E of 29 November 2001, 57/65 of 22 November 2002, 59/78 of 3 December 2004, 60/61 of 8 December 2005, 61/64 of 6 December 2006, 62/48 of 5 December 2007, 63/52 of 2 December 2008, 64/32 of 2 December 2009, 65/52 of 8 December 2010, 66/30 of 2 December 2011, 67/40 of 3 December 2012, 68/37 of 5 December 2013, 69/56 of 2 December 2014 and 70/32 of 7 December 2015 and its decision 58/520 of 8 December 2003,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Seventeenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 13 to 18 September 2016,

Mindful of the changes in international relations that have taken place since the adoption in 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, including the development agenda that has emerged over the past decade,

¹ See resolution S-10/2.

² See *Report of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, New York, 24 August–11 September 1987* (A/CONF.130/39).



Bearing in mind the new challenges for the international community in the fields of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of the diseases that afflict humanity,

Stressing the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection, and concerned at increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development³ and its reappraisal of this significant issue in the current international context,

Bearing in mind the importance of following up on the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,²

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 70/32,⁴

1. *Stresses* the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field, in particular the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, in order to ensure continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and subagencies;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted on 11 September 1987 at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;²

3. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

4. *Encourages* the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to make reference to the contribution that disarmament could provide in meeting them when it reviews its progress towards this purpose, as well as to make greater efforts to integrate disarmament, humanitarian and development activities;

5. *Encourages* the relevant regional and subregional organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutes to incorporate issues related to the relationship between disarmament and development into their agendas and, in this regard, to take into account the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development;³

6. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

³ See A/59/119.

⁴ A/71/152 and Add.1.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the information provided by Member States pursuant to paragraph 6 above,

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development"

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General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)]

71/63. Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996, 52/38 L of 9 December 1997, 53/77 X of 4 December 1998, 54/54 P of 1 December 1999, 55/33 T of 20 November 2000, 56/24 R of 29 November 2001, 57/79 of 22 November 2002, 58/56 of 8 December 2003, 59/77 of 3 December 2004, 60/70 of 8 December 2005, 61/78 of 6 December 2006, 62/42 of 5 December 2007, 63/46 of 2 December 2008, 64/53 of 2 December 2009, 65/56 of 8 December 2010, 66/51 of 2 December 2011, 67/60 of 3 December 2012, 68/47 of 5 December 2013, 69/48 of 2 December 2014 and 70/52 of 7 December 2015 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972¹ and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993² have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention at an early date,

Recognizing the urgent need to take concrete practical steps towards achieving the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,³

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1974, No. 33757.

³ Resolution S-10/2.



calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Reaffirming the conviction of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons⁴ that the Treaty is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and the importance of the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the decision on the extension of the Treaty and the resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,⁵

Stressing the importance of the 13 steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as agreed to by the States parties in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,⁶

Recognizing the important work done at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,⁷ and affirming its 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament as an impetus to intensify work aimed at beginning negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention,

Expressing deep concern that the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 27 April to 22 May 2015, did not reach agreement on a substantive final document,

Reaffirming the continued validity of agreements reached at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences until all their objectives are achieved, and calling for their full and immediate fulfilment, including the action plan on nuclear disarmament adopted at the 2010 Review Conference,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Reiterating its call for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,⁸

Noting the new strategic arms reduction treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, in order to achieve further cuts in their deployed and non-deployed strategic nuclear weapons, and stressing that such cuts should be irreversible, verifiable and transparent,

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

⁵ See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

⁶ 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15.

⁷ 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)).

⁸ See resolution 50/245 and A/50/1027.

Noting also the statements by nuclear-weapon States of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, as well as the steps taken to reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons, and urging nuclear-weapon States to take further measures for progress on nuclear disarmament within a specified framework of time,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States, without exception or discrimination, against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, issued on 8 July 1996,⁹ and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Recalling also paragraph 176 of the final document of the Seventeenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 13 to 18 September 2016, in which the Conference on Disarmament was called upon to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority, while the necessity was emphasized of starting negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, without further delay, on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention that sets, inter alia, a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time,

Noting the adoption of the programme of work for the 2009 session by the Conference on Disarmament on 29 May 2009,¹⁰ after years of stalemate, while regretting that the Conference did not succeed in reaching consensus on a programme of work for the 2016 session,

Welcoming the proposals submitted by the States members of the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013, as contained in documents of the Conference,¹¹

Reaffirming the importance and validity of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and expressing the need to adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda and dealing with, inter alia, four core issues, in accordance with the rules of procedure,¹² and by taking into consideration the security concerns of all States,

⁹ A/51/218, annex.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27), para. 18.

¹¹ See CD/1999 and CD/2067.

¹² CD/8/Rev.9.

Reaffirming also the specific mandate conferred upon the Disarmament Commission by the General Assembly, in its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, to discuss the subject of nuclear disarmament as one of its main substantive agenda items,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹³ in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving that aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

Underlining the importance of implementing its decision in resolution 68/32 to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard,

Recalling the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament held on 26 September 2013, and the strong support for nuclear disarmament expressed therein,

Welcoming the commemoration of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as declared by the General Assembly in its resolutions 68/32 of 5 December 2013, 69/58 of 2 December 2014 and 70/34 of 7 December 2015, devoted to furthering this objective,

Taking note of the declaration of the States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, in Mexico City on 26 September 2014,¹⁴

Noting the successful convening of the first, second and third Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013, in Nayarit, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014, and in Vienna on 8 and 9 December 2014, respectively, and also noting that 127 nations have formally endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge issued following the Third Conference,¹⁵

Welcoming the signing by the nuclear-weapon States, namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, in New York on 6 May 2014,

Welcoming also the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace on 29 January 2014 during the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014,

Taking note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations,¹⁶ established by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/33, in which the Working Group recommended that the General Assembly convene a conference in 2017, to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination,

¹³ Resolution 55/2.

¹⁴ A/C.1/69/2, annex.

¹⁵ See CD/2039.

¹⁶ A/71/371.

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States should refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in settling their disputes in international relations,

Seized of the danger of the use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in terrorist acts and the urgent need for concerted international efforts to control and overcome it,

1. *Urges* all nuclear-weapon States to take effective disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of all nuclear weapons at the earliest possible time;
2. *Reaffirms* that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that the two processes must go hand in hand and that there is a genuine need for a systematic and progressive process of nuclear disarmament;
3. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world, including the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned, which is an effective measure for limiting the further spread of nuclear weapons geographically and contributes to the cause of nuclear disarmament;
4. *Encourages* States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone¹⁷ and the nuclear-weapon States to intensify ongoing efforts to resolve all outstanding issues, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty, pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to the Treaty;
5. *Recognizes* that there is a genuine need to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;
6. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;
7. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems, while stressing that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in and the total elimination of nuclear weapons;
8. *Reiterates its call upon* the nuclear-weapon States to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time;
9. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on a joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons;
10. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to commence plurilateral negotiations among themselves at an appropriate stage on further deep reductions of their nuclear weapons, in an irreversible, verifiable and transparent manner, as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament;

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

11. *Underlines* the importance of applying the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to the process of nuclear disarmament;

12. *Also underlines* the importance of the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty,¹⁸ and the reaffirmation by the States parties that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;¹⁸

13. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference;⁶

14. *Also calls for* the full implementation of the action plan as set out in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly the 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament;⁷

15. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to carry out further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons, including on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

16. *Calls for* the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, in the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced programme of work, on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator¹⁹ and the mandate contained therein;

17. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to commence as early as possible its substantive work during its 2017 session, on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that takes into consideration all the real and existing priorities in the field of disarmament and arms control, including the immediate commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention;

18. *Calls for* the conclusion of an international legal instrument on unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

19. *Also calls for* the early entry into force, universalization and strict observance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty⁸ as a contribution to nuclear disarmament, while welcoming the latest ratifications of the Treaty, by Myanmar and Swaziland, on 21 September 2016;

20. *Reiterates its call upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in 2017 and to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time;

¹⁸ 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VII and the security of non-nuclear-weapon States", para. 2.

¹⁹ CD/1299.

21. *Calls for* the convening, no later than 2018, of a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

*51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016*